



PERMANENT

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STATEMENT BY MRS. NATALIE Y. MORRIS-SHARMA, COUNSELLOR,  
PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE TO THE UNITED NATIONS,  
ON AGENDA ITEM 82, ON THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND  
INTERNATIONAL LEVELS, SIXTH COMMITTEE, 9 OCTOBER 2014

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1. Mr. Chairman, as this is the first time that my delegation is taking the floor in this &ommittee, allow me to join others who have spoken before me this week in

4. The rule of law is a stability. At the international level, Singapore is of the firm belief that the rule of law is a critical basis for international relations among states, and between states and other international legal entities. At the national level, the rule of law is the bedrock on which the nation of Singapore was founded and continues to provide the framework for its proper functioning.

5. A strong rule of law has been key to Singapore's development as a democratic society anchored on justice and equality. We thus supported a standalone goal on the rule of law in the post-2015 development agenda. In May this year, a Rule of Law Symposium was held in Singapore. The symposium highlighted the key components of the rule of law, such as legal certainty, equal application of the law and access to justice, influence economic progress, social development and political stability.

6. There is no simple or universally agreed definition for the rule of law. Nevertheless, my delegation sees the importance in seeking to at least identify the common elements of what the rule of law means. We would like to highlight three key components of access to justice that have helped to strengthen the rule of law in Singapore.

7. First, non-discrimination. All persons are equal before the law and are entitled to the equal protection of the law. This means that everyone has equal access to the legal system in Singapore to seek redress for grievances.

its ideal concepts, but whether in fact it is able to produce order and justice in the UHODWLRQVKLSV EHWZHHQ PDQ DQG PDQ DQG EHWZHHQ of our judiciary is enshrined under our written Constitution. We have an incorrupt and competent judiciary which administers the laws fairly and impartially, without fear or favour. Our courts are well-known for their efficiency, recognising full well that justice GHOD\HG LV MXVWLFH GHQLHG ,Q WKH :RUOG (FRG Report 2013-2014, Singapore was ranked first out of 148 countries in terms of efficiency of its legal framework in settling disputes.

9. Third, fair and predictable laws. Legislation is enacted in Singapore by a GHPRFUDWLFDOO\ HOHFWHG 3DUOLDPHQW -WKLW LV multilingual and multi-religious society. Our laws uphold both individual and public interests. We keep them updated to meet CSJDSRUH¶V FKDQLQJ QHHGV such laws on the books is not good enough. Laws must be made accessible to the people, which is what we have done. Riding on the benefits of infocomm technology, all legislation is publicly available on a 24/7 basis. We have also embarked on a new project FDOOHG 3/86 RU 33ODLQ /DZV 8QGHUVWDQGDEOH E\ WR 6LQJDSRUH¶V ZULWWHQ ODZV 7KH REMHFWLYH presented in a manner which is clear, readable and more easily understood by the people to whom the laws apply.

10. Mr. Chairman, Singapore is committed to the rule of law as a universal value. It must also be approached and applied in a way which recognises local contexts and practical realities to achieve good governance and to promote the general welfare of the people. We are committed to continually improving our system and look forward to the exchange of views on this agenda item over these two days, including on the Secretary General¶V UHFRPPHQGDWLRQV IRU GHYHORSLQJ IXUWKH and the three inter-linked and mutually reinforcing pillars of peace and security, human rights and development.

11. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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